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FOOD
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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 116



READY FOR SEASON TWO
SEE PAGE 17

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE FLAVOR OF SANTA MONICA ISSUE

So long jets — for now

City Council bans fastest, largest aircraft from airport

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Sunset Park residents who for years have complained about the risks of living near the Santa Monica Airport had reason to celebrate Tuesday night when the City Council banned the fastest and largest jets from the general aviation facility.

It could be a short-lived celebration as Federal Aviation Administration officials have indicated that they will challenge the ordinance, potentially leading to a lengthy and costly litigation path for City Hall.

The FAA on Wednesday served City Hall with an order to show cause, an administrative action giving the municipality 10 days to demonstrate why class C and D jets should be outlawed from the airport, according to FAA spokesman Ian Gregor.

The order could reawaken the FAA's existing six-year investigation into the legality of an earlier similar City Hall proposal to ban certain jets. The investigation was put on hold while aviation and city officials worked together to reach a mutual solution to concerns regarding the possibility of an aircraft overshooting the runway.

Gregor said he could not speculate on if or when the FAA would file a lawsuit against City Hall over the newly-enacted ordinance. The ordinance will take effect 30 days from adoption.

"We very strongly believe the proposed ordinance is illegal for a number of reasons — the airport cannot unilaterally ban stage 3 jets from landing there ... and moreover, under the 1984 agreement, (City Hall) agreed to keep airport access open to all users," Gregor said on Wednesday, referring to the 1984 lease between the FAA and City Hall.

The council's decision came after a nearly four-hour long contentious discussion with Kirk Shaffer, the FAA's associate administrator for airports, during the meeting on Tuesday. Shaffer met with city officials to formally present the FAA's

SEE AIRPORT PAGE 14



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

HISTORY? **A passenger jet takes off from Santa Monica Airport on Wednesday afternoon. The City Council banned the largest, fastest jets from the airport Tuesday.**

Murder victim was stabbed

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

NORTH OF MONTANA A 35-year-old artist discovered murdered in his Montana Avenue condominium last week died as a result of multiple stab wounds, according to autopsy results released from the Los Angeles County Coroner on Monday.

Alexander "Sasha" Merman was found dead in a condo complex at the corner of Sixth Street and Montana Avenue on March 19, discovered by a building manager who checked on the Santa Monica resident after receiving a call from his mother, concerned because she hadn't heard from her son in several days.

Merman, a school teacher at a Los Angeles area elementary school, was the second homicide victim found in Santa Monica last week. On March 16, Santa Monica Police Department officers discovered the body of Juliana Redding in her Centinela Avenue apartment, the 21-year-old aspiring model the victim of an apparent assault. The results of Redding's autopsy are being held at the request of the police department.

"We're still conducting more investigation," SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla said. "The detectives feel at this point they don't

SEE AUTOPSY PAGE 14



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

READY FOR ANYTHING: **Firefighter Ryan Demirdjian (left) rides in Engine 122 during a routine call last week.**


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE



OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

The Meathands have it

4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m.

The "Magic Meathands" perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity based on audience suggestions and participation. The show is presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers delicious coffee, food, drinks and comfortable couches. What sets this improv group apart is their personal connection with the audience and community, so their best material comes directly from the people around them. For information, call (310) 559-8868.

What's really the story?

3116 Second St., 8 p.m.

The Powerhouse Theatre presents the "What's the Story Festival of New Solo Plays." The festival includes a workshop, founded and facilitated by Stacie Chaiken, for the development of personal stories for the stage, the screen, and the page. In their annual festival, 15 writer-performers perform an eclectic array of new work that is deeply moving, hilariously brave, bawdy, brazen and bold. For information, call (310) 396-3680.

What's new this week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

Friday, March 28, 2008

Get your Monty on

2627 Pico Blvd., Call for times

The Santa Monica Theatre Guild at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre presents "The Full Monty." The show runs March 14 through April 12 (Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.). This musical adaptation of the comedic British film turns the "let's put on a show" genre on its ear, as a group of unemployed steelworkers prepares to present their own Chippendales-style show in working-class Buffalo, New York. For information, call (310) 936-1338.

Rolling with Ray

Westside, 1 p.m.

Novelist Raymond Chandler gravitated to sin and debauchery, so Santa Monica in the 1930s was a frequent stop for Philip Marlowe, one of his most popular characters. From shady doctors to second wives with pasts to crooked cops with a loathing for a mouthy PI, this tour has it all. Chandler's canonization of sin, wealth and sunshine on L.A.'s Westside fed the abiding myths of the American hard-boiled genre and play into the popular conception of the region. For information, call (323) 223-2767.

Getting wild on the Westside

Noon — 5 p.m.

For the first time, the true crime archeologists of the 1947project have set their sights on points west of Robertson Boulevard, and the results are truly astonishing. In this new tour spotlighting some of the weirdest, most horrific and downright unbelievable crimes of historic West Los Angeles. Seats are $55 a person. For more information, call (323) 223-2767.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

L.A. firefighters injured in blast

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A series of explosions that blew the manhole covers off the top of an underground vault sent two firefighters to the hospital and injured a bystander Wednesday, firefighters said.

The firefighters were investigating an explosion at a commercial building near Los Angeles International Airport around 2 p.m. when a second explosion occurred, Fire Department Deputy Chief Mario Rueda said during a news conference.

"It appeared to be at least electrical in nature because of the substations that are underneath Sepulveda, but we don't have a cause of the explosion at this point," Rueda said.

"I don't have a theory on how it occurred. I can tell you smoke is combustible and can be explosive when it reaches the right temperature, and with a source of ignition, smoke can be explosive," he added.

The firefighters were taken to a hospital for treatment. The third victim sustained minor injuries, he said.

Fire crews on the scene told the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power that a gas leak may have caused the blasts, department spokesman Joe Ramallo said. But Rueda said there was "no indication, no evidence, that natural gas was involved."

New rocket aims to offer Mach 2 ride

BY JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press Writer

BEVERLY HILLS Entrepreneurs of the new commercial space age said Wednesday they plan by 2010 to be flight-testing a practical four-engine rocket ship that will be capable of taking people on Mach 2 thrill rides up to 200,000 feet, and which also has the interest of the Air Force.

The design of the Lynx rocket, a two-seat ship a bit more slender than a small executive jet, was shown off by Xcor Aerospace, a Mojave, Calif.-based company that has spent nine years developing rocket engines.

Fueled by liquid oxygen and kerosene, the Lynx is intended to operate like an airliner, making up to four flights a day while using runways for takeoffs and landings like a normal airplane.

CEO Jeff Greason withheld specifics of costs and technical details at a Beverly Hilton press conference, but said he was certain investors will finance construction of the Lynx, which he estimated from this point forward will cost "south of $10 million," not including previous development costs.

SEE ROCKET PAGE 15



Photo courtesy Santa Monica Bay Wrestling Club

GETTING READY TO RUMBLE: **Middle school students stretch their muscles last year during a training session hosted by the Santa Monica Bay Wrestling Club, which will begin offering wrestling classes at Lincoln and John Adams middle schools in April.**

Grappling with funding

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

JAMS Four years after starting the process the Santa Monica Bay Wrestling Club has secured a grant to establish an Interscholastic Wrestling Program at John Adams and Lincoln middle schools.

The season will begin April 2 and run through the end of May and will include at least two duel meets and a tournament at the end of the season. The program will be instructed by the Santa Monica High School coaching staff, said Robert Forster, one of the club's founders.

"We've been offering classes at the high school for six years now, but many of the younger kids couldn't participate because it was held later in the day and at Samohi," said Forster, who wrestled in high school and college and now works as a physical therapist in Santa Monica where he has helped star athletes like Pete Sampras and Jackie Joyner-Kersee.

"We wanted to offer something at the school sites to make it easier for kids to get involved," Forster added. "It's hard to create a good wrestling program if you start at the ninth grade. You have to start young.

"It's a good, clean, safe sport that just about anyone can participate in. A lot of kids go to high school and can't find a sport because they aren't big enough to play football, fast enough to play baseball or soccer. Here's a sport that lets you compete by weight class so everyone has a chance to compete and have some success."

Wrestling has a rich history in Santa Monica and is enjoying a robust renaissance in recent years with coaches Mark Black and Brent Wright helping JAMS alumnus Yusaf Syed reach the boys' California State Championship in 2007 and Lincoln alumnus Jazzy Green to the girls' State Championship twice (2005 and 2006).

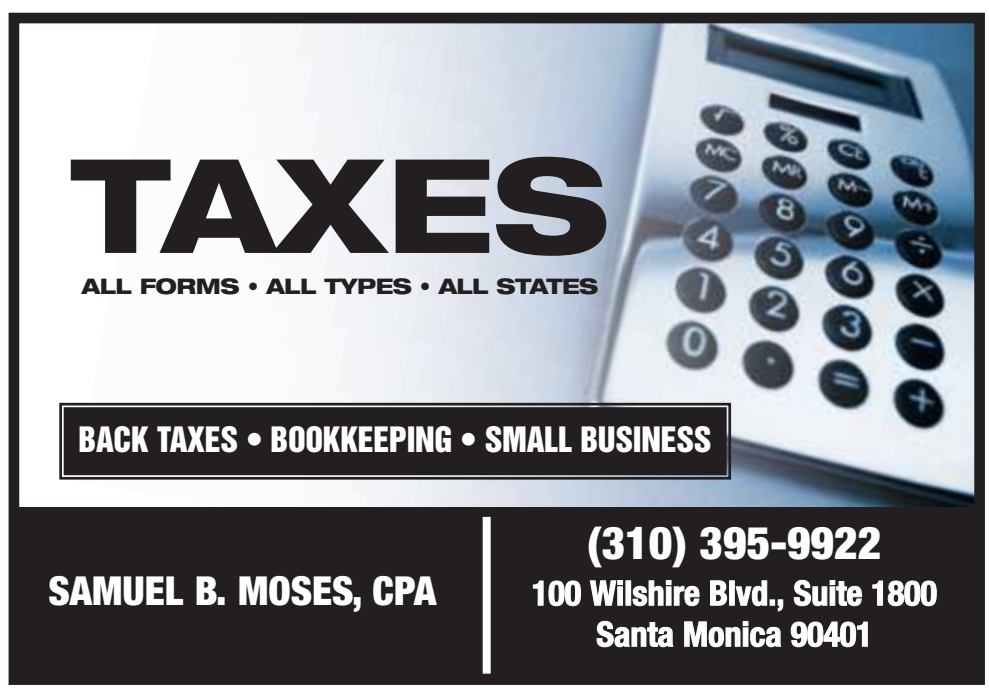
Practice at the two middle schools will be held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Practices will include instruction in technique, sportsmanship and scientific fitness training principles.

Local parents Forster and Steve Shapiro joined Mark Black in creating the Santa Monica Bay Wrestling Club in 2002 to establish an evening program for kids from Santa Monica High School. Over the past six years hundreds of local students have been exposed to the sport.

The grant for the middle school program was awarded after a three year application process working with the LA84 Foundation, the organization funded by the profits generated by the Summer Olympics in 1984. One of the only profitable Olympics in recent times, the legacy of the 1984 Olympics continues to give to local nonprofit programs to

SEE WRESTLING PAGE 14





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

North versus South

Editor:

I learned so much from reading the letter to the editor written by J. W. Petoria on March 22-23. Let me take inventory: North of Montana people pay taxes; home prices are $3.5 to $5 million; the Santa Monica Police do not take care of the rich, and really, the SM Police do not care about the best of our citizens. There is something missing: J. W. Petoria's neighborhood is blessed with at least one silly person: J. W. Petoria.

Just for the record: Everyone living South of Montana pays taxes; everyone living South of Montana should feel safe and not in fear for one's life; everyone living North of Montana do live in and exclusive area for each living-space is one's exclusive area. Maybe not as grand as J. W . Petoria's home but surely a home.

I've lived in this lovely town since 1959 and I feel blessed to live here. Should I have the need to drive North of Wiltshire I take my passport with me just in case I'm stopped and asked what I'm doing on this side of town.

It seems that the North and South are still at war in Santa Monica. J. W. Petoria can come to my neighborhood and, honestly, there is no need to have a passport to visit this side of town.

Maria Sirotti
Santa Monica

It's not easy being green

Editor:

It's a shame or maybe it's just plain disgusting. There is an obvious graft going on in Sacramento. The state's leaders claim to be green, we have the greenest governor in the country. We were lucky enough to win green laws because of all the pollution that was pumped into the atmosphere years ago. The state's lawmakers have already stripped these laws bare, are now going to kill these laws. This state should be a leader, not a mouthpiece for the oil companies. We have to get off our dependence of fossil fuels. Obviously, hybrids are an interim step, but there are so many more options. We have the technology to have cars powered by the sun there, here and everywhere.

Check out Plug-in America, or the city's own fleet. This state could be a leader not a follower in the green energy movement. The Europeans have overtaken us. Germany mandated that 50 percent of all new construction include solar panels, and in the winter of 2007, Spain mandated that 100 percent of all new construction has to be green. Later in the year, Portugal followed suit. We need this industry here, in California.

Daniel Beattie
Santa Monica

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Dispatches from Dystopia

Ryan Hyatt — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Escaping Las Vegas with some maturity

MY FRIENDS MADE EXTENSIVE preparations for our trip to celebrate their 30th birthday in Las Vegas. For over a year, they conspired, toiled and saved, carefully combing Hollywood outlet stores for suits, gathering the necessities for a Sin City rendezvous.

The idea was to say farewell to the habits and hang-ups of our 20s and embrace our 30s with optimistic style. We departed Hollywood in a Porsche Cayenne Turbo S SUV at 3:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 29, arriving two and a half hours later at our Bellagio VIP suite. We were like pimps at the Rapture, toasting our good fortune with Alize and champagne, soaking up a golden view of The Strip at sunrise. Our four party troopers included Jesse Wagler, a Hoosier by birth and player for life, who wore a fedora and kept an "ace" card in his coat pocket. Jesse works as a film editor and brought a wardrobe worthy of a prince. He also had 30 condoms in honor of his age, candles, incense, cigars, Cognac, Zippo and an engraved whiskey flask. All Jesse lacked was a babe, but he met one quickly into our foray after getting the crowd dancing at Tryst.

Also inaugurating three decades of existence was Drew Flichtbeil, piano player and real estate guru from Portland. Besides busting on the keys and making smart investments, Drew enjoys cycling and his pit bull, Dodger. He arranged to meet an old fling, but easily distracted by other beauties, he acknowledged his tactical blunder, saying, "It was like bringing sand to the beach." He had a blast anyway.

Mike Fresh, a cool dude from La Jolla with exquisite tastes, was the organizer. At 31, my age, he works as an appraiser, keeping an eye out for his friends and the finer things. Mike came with $10,000 in a wad of hundreds and an Amex Black card. He met a lovely gal from Miami and bonded with her until departure day.

As for me, I had little expectations for the adventure, thinking nothing could top my previous romp. That was seven years ago, when Bush was fresh in office, Iraq wasn't an American colony and 9/11 was six months on our brains. I worked full time as a liability investigator for a major insurance company and part time as a writer. In for a bachelor party, a foxy British brat duped me into believing a bomb had been planted in the Bellagio. I ran for dear life though the casino, knocking over gamblers, chased down by security. I came to an upper-level outdoor bar. There, I leapt off the balcony, the "A-Team" theme song playing in my head. I was "heading for the light" as I soon explained to authorities. I crashed through a fiber glass veranda, swung off a roof beam and landed on my tailbone, without obvious injury. They found me by the pool washing my feet. I was released from the hotel after a grueling police interrogation. Management threatened to hit me up for property damage, and I threatened to hit them up for lacking clearly posted exit signs. We came to an agreement. A beautiful woman escorted me off the premises while a few guests and staff, aware of my escapade, lined up for autographs. The incident is chronicled in the story, "Invitation for Disaster."

Returning to the Bellagio, I felt a surprising sense of hope. Sure, there were the phone calls made to my girlfriend back home about the alarming number of Communists and Nazis I was encountering on my tour of duty, and, yes, I vaguely recall terrorizing The Strip like a werewolf, laughing and snarling at the moon. I think I lost $200 paying for cab rides that took me in circles. At one point I pissed myself in hysterics during a crowded elevator ride. I can't remember the joke now. Eventually, I came to peace with the war waging in my mind.

The light came into focus as hours, days slipped by. Soon, I realized, America will have a new President. We sat at a café, watching the Bellagio fountain, smoking cigars. "F--k it," Drew said. "Let's take this show on the road." My friends seemed older, wiser, but perhaps that's because we hardly slept. The sun rose Monday morning, and I surveyed The Strip one last time from our suite's vantage point, basking in the warm glow. It was like divine intervention, the dawning of a new age. Our last lines spent, it was time to go. Some things are best left in Las Vegas. Its radiance will always captivate me, but I'm thinking bigger for future birthdays. Like Bali, or Brazil. This decade is ours to own.

RYAN HYATT is a former Daily Press staff writer and author of the nouveau western, "The Death of Rock 'n' Roll." He is seeking a publisher for his second novel, "Stay Younger Longer," a political thriller that takes place in LA in 2046. He can be reached at ryanhyatt@gmail.com.

GOT NEWS?

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Santa Monica Daily Press Visit us online at smdp.com

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Seth Barnes, Taylor van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Mark Marchillo, Ken Tarr, Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp Mariel Howsepian and Cynthia Citron

NEWS INTERNS
Chiara Canzi
news@smdp.com

Jon Haber
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Geoffrey Dunn
news@smdp.com

Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

Alexis Hawkins
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Cynthia Vazquez
advertising@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Tessa Vergara
tessav@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Oliver Kupper
production@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER
Annie Kotok
anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's time to re-think time-tested clichés

IN A BLOW TO JACKASSES EVERYWHERE, a study published last week in the journal Nature suggests that nice guys actually finish first. Harvard University analyzed 100 Boston-area students who repeatedly played the same game over the course of a year and found that those who attempted to garner all-around cooperation ultimately fared better than those who meted out punishment to their competitors.

That isn't the only recent reversal of fortune for some time-tested clichés.

According to next week's issue of The New England Journal of Medicine, as it turns out, blondes actually have more phlegm than fun. While scientists have long hypothesized that the chest congestion of bleached blondes — Marilyn Monroe, Anna Nicole Smith, the future children and grandchildren of Paris Hilton, for example — was far worse than those born towheaded — such as Grace Kelly, Princess Diana, Malibu Barbie — it's now been proven that naturally fair-haired individuals suffer more frequently from excess mucus than redheads and brunettes as well as their faux-flaxen counterparts (still unknown is how the levels compare to those with frizzy and no hair).

The Journal says that lab tests have conclusively revealed that those in possession of auricomous roots are so troubled when discovering their follicular connection to such a big word that they often consume excessive amounts of alcohol to cope.

And, as cigarette smoking often accompanies heavy drinking, the result is a mixture of mucins, water, electrolytes, epithelial cells and leukocytes secreted by glands lining the nasal, esophageal and other body cavities.

Dorothy Gale famously uttered, "There's no place like home" in 1939, a line that had some tourists in Alaska shuddering not long ago. After being forced off a Caribbean cruise ship in the middle of the night over the Christmas holiday due to an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, even though there were three days left before their trip was scheduled to end, the Taylor family was in no mood for anything but the comfort of their own beds. They sleepily gave instructions to their travel agent to send them home immediately and then boarded a red-eye bound for what they assumed was Topeka.

However, when they woke the next day as the plane was landing, they looked out their windows and saw icebergs, realizing instantly they weren't in Kansas. Angrily, they called the travel agent from inside the Nome, Alaska, airport and upon hearing the next available flight wasn't for another day, the Taylors started throwing large objects around the captain's lounge. When a chair hit the Coke machine and a Sprite burst through the door, hitting a flight attendant in the shoulder, Homeland Security rushed in and the police were called.

In a show of solidarity with her state's 17th most populous city, Gov. Sarah Palin has since banned Netflix from ever sending DVDs of "The Wizard of Oz" to anywhere in Alaska in order to avoid any reminders of the disturbing incident.

Fox 47 in Lansing, Mich., reported a week after Valentine's Day of a boys' night out gone bad. Telling their wives on Feb. 14 not to despair, as absence makes the heart grow fonder, a group of five men left for the evening to play some poker and visit a local gentlemen's club. After conferring with one another on the phone, the wives realized absence had, indeed, made their hearts grow fonder. Of being alone. The men all returned home early the next morning to find their locks had been changed and divorce lawyers notified.

Finally, more evidence that yet another revised edition of The Dictionary of Clichés is needed is the phrase "A stitch in time saves nine." It first appeared in print in Thomas Fuller's "Gnomologia" in 1732, and has since become a popular adage warning of the perils of procrastination. However, an investigative report published earlier this year in The Washington Post revealed there was actually a typo in Fuller's book, and the phrase was meant to read, "A stitch in twine paves swine."

After months of exhaustive research, though, the Post reporter wasn't able to uncover the intended meaning of the phrase. So his editor stepped in and added his two cents. He said the reporter needed to throw in the towel and move on because the search was half-cocked, he was barking up the wrong tree, Rome wasn't built in a day, all good things must come to an end and this, too, shall pass.

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

The Q Line

Feeling safe in Santa Monica

A pair of homicides last week has the usually safe city has some on edge. While murders don't happen very often in this city by the sea, the recent murders raises more than a few poignant issues regarding safety.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

In light of the recent murders do you still feel safe in Santa Monica? If not, what are you doing to protect yourself?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



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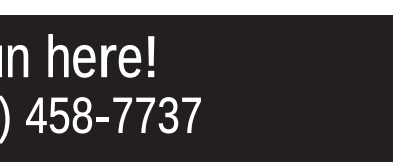
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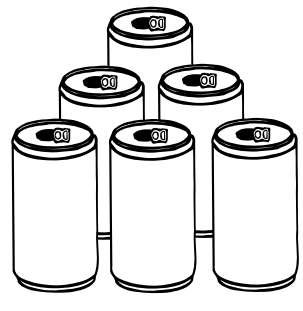
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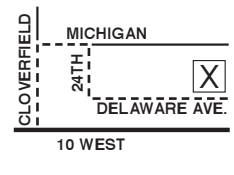
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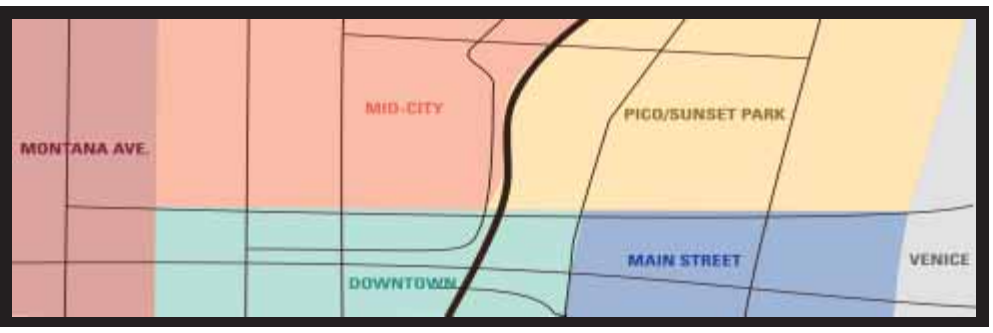
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The Re-View

Merve Hecht — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mélisse is well worth the price

WE'RE REALLY LUCKY TO LIVE IN SANTA Monica. The weather, the shopping, the diversity — and the restaurants! And of all the great restaurants in town, probably the very best is Mélisse.

What is it that makes Mélisse so special? First, the layout. It's not so big that the noise is distracting, and not so small as to feel cramped. Diners can choose to sit a little apart at comfy booths along the sides of the room, or at the widely spaced tables. If the weather permits, there's a third option — outside on the beautiful patio. Also, the bar stands apart from the dining room, which adds to the quiet, non-busy atmosphere.

Second the servers at Mélisse are mature and serious; we didn't get the feeling that they are just there until they get an acting call. Chef/owner Josiah Citrin, a native Angeleno enjoys the respect of his staff and it shows. My second son Spencer ordered the filet of sole at dinner there last week, and it was boned tableside by a real professional. Number one son, who is a surgeon, was impressed with the surgical precision of the waiter preparing that sole.

Third, the wine list and wine service really shines. The list contains a number of great, hard-to-find wines, a few affordable ones, including something from every major French and California region. I was surprised to see Sagratino di Montalfalco from three different producers on the list. Even in Italian restaurants I rarely see even one producer of this hot new Italian grape. And Bryan, the sommelier, is a true professional without that haughty attitude one hates in a French restaurant. One small criticism, the prices are, as in most L.A. restaurants, a bit over the top, and there is a lack of good bottles in the $40-$60 range. When I go to an expensive restaurant, sometimes I want to splurge on a special and expensive bottle, but sometimes I just want to eat well and drink something more ordinary.

That said, number one son Matt went to Mélisse for a special occasion recently, and asked Bryan the sommelier for a "good red under $60." Matt reported that Bryan turned up an excellent bottle of Cote du Rhone for $41.

Fourth, the ambiance. Sometimes it may be hard to define, but you know it when you see it. For me Mélisse has great ambiance. It starts with the champagne cart that rolls your way when you are first seated. While I don't personally usually start dinner with a glass of champagne, many do — as I noticed when last there. Toward the end of dinner the cart is transformed into an excellent selection of after-dinner drinks. Now I come to life. Usually I have an Armagnac, but the last time I was there we all had the Dupont Calvados. A glass of Calvados, the apple based liquor from the Normandy region of France, once a day is said to keep the doctor away.

In addition to the champagne-liquor cart and the table-side service, there's the cheese cart. As it rolls by the table, my mind tells me I'm in France, not Santa Monica. That's what I call ambiance.

But what about the food's three key elements: The selection, the presentation, and the preparation? In all three categories Mélisse shines.

The menu, although directed more toward the tasting menus than an a la carte selection, includes shellfish dishes, plus a selection of several fish, beef, lamb, fowl, and vegetarian dishes such as pasta, some dishes with white truffles and some with black truffles.

We've tried all of it at one time or another. The beef three ways (a dish made famous, I think, by Michael Mina in San Francisco) is like a fun tasting, and quite satisfying. The seared fois gras is as good as that dish gets. The Dover sole, mentioned above, was pretty much as in the best restaurants in France. At one dinner a friend had the special wild grouse, while the others had pasta with white truffles. Both dishes were exceptional. But the check for four, with a reasonable bottle of wine, came to over $800. Well worth it.

Perhaps the lobster "Bolognese" is not quite as inspired as other dishes. The pasta wrapped around the pieces of lobster detracts from the delicate flavor of the lobster itself. And the plate covered with foam is not visually attractive or interesting. The flavored foam craze, initiated by Ferran Adriá of El Bulli restaurant in Rosas, Spain, was fun for a while, but it's now so passé.

At between $100 and $200 per person (on the average) Mélisse is not somewhere I go a few times a week. But for a special occasion, or when we start to miss the restaurants we love in France so much we can't stand it, a dinner at Mélisse is a special treat that reminds us how lucky we are to live in Santa Monica.

MERV HECHT, a food and wine critic and wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies.



Future UC president sees lean times ahead

BY APRIL CASTRO
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN, Texas Squeezing a state legislature for more higher education money during a multibillion dollar budget shortfall will be old hat for Mark Yudof if he is picked this week as the University of California's next president.

The UC Board of Regents is expected to name Yudof on Thursday to replace outgoing President Robert Dynes in June, just in time to inherit a lean budget for the 10-campus system that university officials predict will compel them to raise student fees, reduce services or both.

Yudof began his tenure as chancellor of the University of Texas system nearly six years ago in much the same way — pleading with Texas lawmakers for more money as the state stared down a historic $10 billion budget deficit.

"He's seen the budget shortfall movie before," said Republican Rep. Dan Branch, who served on the House budget-writing committee. "It's an important skill and experience to have heading into some serious headwinds in Sacramento."

Despite the state's budget woes, Yudof walked away from that session with what higher education officials described as the most lucrative deal the Texas system had seen. Lawmakers included about $500 million more in higher education funding than had been initially proposed.

"That session turned out to be one of our most successful in history," said Charles Miller, who was chairman of the UT Board of Regents at the time. "We got some legislation in place that we'd been working on for decades."

The marquee accomplishment of that session — and arguably of Yudof's time leading the system — was a measure that allowed universities to set their own tuition rates. It's also been the source of one of the top criticisms lobbed at him, since the average UT tuition has soared more than 40 percent since then.

As president of the Texas system, he also worked to cultivate a presence in Washington D.C. to increase federal research dollars. Annual research expenditures since Yudof took office have increased by a third, to almost $460 million a year.

"He didn't just go to the Legislature and say 'give us more money.' He went to every source of revenue we could and tried to optimize it," Miller said. The result was "better research dollars, better endowment earnings, better contributions and some increases in state funding ... in every way, financially, we did extremely well."

Under Yudof's leadership, endowment funds have almost doubled, to more than $15.6 billion at the end of the last fiscal year, according to NACUBO, a college business officers' group that tracks endowments.

The eye-popping balance put the UT system at the top of the heap, ranked fifth under the likes of Harvard, Yale and Stanford.

"The reputation of the UT system nationally is the best that it has been in its history," Miller said. "We didn't have that kind of reputation six or eight years ago. We just didn't."

A former law professor, dean and provost at the University of Texas at Austin, Yudof has presided over the UT system since August 2002. At $775,000 a year in total compensation, the position has been lucrative personally. He also lived in a home owned by the UT System in Austin's posh Tarrytown area.

Yudof's dealings with the state have not all been successful.

One of his biggest failures came in 2007, when the Legislature rejected an overhaul of the state's top 10 percent law. The law, which grants automatic college admission to students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school classes, was criticized by Yudof and others who argued that it limited the university's ability to recruit a well-rounded student body.

The issue will likely be left to Yudof's successor as it becomes more problematic for popular schools such as UT Austin, which announced last week that it has reserved a record 81 percent of its fall admission offers this year to students guaranteed a spot under the law.

In another key disappointment, Yudof pushed tirelessly but failed to acquire the management of Los Alamos National Laboratory from the University of California.

His effort to raise the system's national scientific profile suffered a setback when federal officials in 2005 rejected its bid in favor of maintaining its decades-long agreement with UC and engineering giant Bechtel Corp.

On the academic side, Yudof's initiatives in the UT system have included an accountability plan that measures student and university performance and makes the results available online.

Justice sidetracks death penalty reform

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California's chief justice told state lawmakers Tuesday that he had withdrawn a proposal to speed up reviews of death penalty cases.

Chief Justice Ronald George said he would not submit a proposed constitutional amendment this year to the state Legislature because of the state budget shortfall. He said there would be insufficient money for prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges.

"In view of the budget situation, I have asked that our proposal not be advanced at this time," George told a joint session of the Legislature during his annual state of the judiciary address.

He said he would wait for a more favorable opportunity.

Earlier this year, George proposed changing California's constitutional requirement that the state Supreme Court directly review all death sentences. He said the system was overwhelming the high court and was leading to years of delays for individual cases.

Death penalty appeals account for nearly a quarter of the roughly 120 opinions the high court issues each year.

George's proposal would have sent most death sentence appeals to appellate courts in a bid to shorten what has become a 20-year process for individual cases.

"This has nothing to do with whether one is for or against the death penalty," George said in an interview after his speech. "It's a question about process."

Critics of the death penalty — including many lawmakers in California's Democratic-controlled Legislature — are content to see the judicial delays that have led to a near-moratorium on executions.

George urged lawmakers to propose ways to address the delay and the workload involving the backlog of death penalty cases.

While he offered to delay his death penalty proposal, George said the Legislature should boost funding for courthouse security and other improvements, while setting aside money to hire at least 50 judges.

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Metro Briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

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Metro Board Chair Pam O'Connor has some good ideas about how to relieve traffic congestion in LA. Now she's looking for ways to pay for it. If you know how, call and share it with her on the live TV call-in show "Metro Live" on Thursday, March 27 from 8-9pm on City TV Channel 16 and LA 36.

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Council Meeting Set For April 9
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Updates On Expo Line Extension Presented
Proposed grade crossing, station and parking locations, and bike routes for the possible extension of the LA to Culver City Expo Line further west to Santa Monica will be presented at community meetings throughout the Westside March 26, April 1 and April 3. Log on to *BuildExpo.org* and click on Phase 2 for times and locations.

Metro
If you'd like to know more, please call us at 1.800.464.2111, or visit *metro.net*.

Ethics agency sues state senator

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California's political watchdog agency filed a $9 million lawsuit Tuesday against state Sen. Carole Migden, accusing the San Francisco Democrat of consistent and deliberate violations of the state's campaign finance laws.

"For years, Senator Migden has been deceiving the voters of California by filing inaccurate campaign statements, fabricating the elimination of committees and concealing campaign funds," Ross Johnson, chairman of the Fair Political Practices Commission, said in a statement.

"The sophisticated and pervasive pattern of deception by her various controlled committees has been ongoing for more than five years."

Commission officials said they had not been able to determine whether it was the largest fine ever sought by the agency.

Migden's campaign consultant, Richie Ross, called the commission's action a "Nixonian tirade" instigated by Johnson in response to a lawsuit filed earlier this month by Migden. The senator's lawsuit challenges the commission's refusal to let Migden use $647,000 in an old campaign account for her Senate re-election campaign this year.

"He's a hothead," Ross said of Johnson, a former Republican state senator who served for years with Migden in the Legislature. "He's stamping his foot, and he is in one of his (expletive) tirades. This is punishment because she is filing suit on First Amendment rights."

A spokesman for the commission, Roman Porter, did not respond directly to Ross' comments but said the counter lawsuit was supported by the entire commission.

The commission's lawsuit comes a little more than a week after Migden admitted making a separate series of campaign violations and agreed to pay a record $350,000 fine.

The action was filed in federal court in Sacramento in response to a lawsuit Migden filed earlier this month over whether she could tap the $647,000 left over from her campaigns when she was in the state Assembly.

She is facing a tough primary challenge for re-election to the Senate from two fellow Democrats — Assemblyman Mark Leno of San Francisco and former Assemblyman Joe Nathan of San Rafael. She wanted to use the money from her Assembly account for the primary race in advance of the June 3 election.

Migden contends that she should be allowed to tap the Assembly money even though she failed to meet a deadline to use it for other campaigns.

The deadline requires elected officials to transfer surplus campaign money to another political committee before they leave office if they plan to use it for a future campaign.

The commission says the requirement is needed to keep former officials from tapping surplus campaign money for "personal enrichment" after they leave office.

Migden's lawsuit contends the commission is being unfair because it allowed another senator, Ellen Corbett, to transfer money after she missed the deadline in 2006.

Commission spokesman Roman Porter said there is a distinct difference between the two cases.

Corbett, a San Leandro Democrat, said the failure to properly transfer her surplus campaign money was an error and asked the commission's permission before using it, Porter said.

"Migden, for the last five years, has illegally used surplus campaign funds without notifying anyone," Porter said.

The commission's countersuit goes beyond the debate over use of the $647,000. It also accuses Migden of "massive instances of misreporting information and movement of money," Porter said.

"Certain movements of money were reported as transfers but didn't happen," he said. "Others were moved but never disclosed."

He said Migden's failure to accurately report transfers could have scared away potential challengers by misleading them into believing that she had more money than she actually had.

Porter said the potential penalty comes to $9 million because the FPPC lawsuit asks for the maximum allowed for each violation. Some of those carry potential fines equal to triple the amount of money involved.

James Harrison, a San Leandro attorney representing Migden, criticized the commission's counter lawsuit.

Olympic torch route a hot topic in San Francisco

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Mayor Gavin Newsom said Tuesday that protesters have the right to voice their grievances against China when the Olympic torch makes its only North American stop, but that city officials have a responsibility to ensure a peaceful procession.

Activists who have criticized the city for restricting demonstration permits to certain areas have been demanding to know the route the torch will take here next month. The American Civil Liberties Union says protesters have a right to plan their rallies against the Chinese government's policies on Tibet and Darfur.

Speaking to the Sacramento Press Club on Tuesday, the mayor said city officials still were negotiating the eight-mile route with police and the International Olympic Committee. He said it would be made public before the April 9 relay.

The discussions already have resulted in certain stops being eliminated and the opening and closing ceremonies being shortened.

"It's a simple route, it'll be on the larger boulevards of our city, tend to be around the waterfront, but the details have yet to be worked out," he said. "It could change up to game day, so to speak."

San Francisco was selected to host the torch in part because of its large Asian-American population. When the Olympic symbol visited the city in 2002 and 1996, it passed through the city's Chinatown.

But Newsom said last week that the torch likely would skip Chinatown this time because it would be too difficult to get it through the neighborhood's narrow streets.

Nathan Ballard, the mayor's spokesman, said Tuesday, that Newsom advocated bringing the torch to Chinatown again, but that security and other factors nixed that plan for now.

"When the choices were made between wider boulevards that have plenty of room for pedestrian flow and narrower streets that have sidewalk vendors, it influenced the choice of the route, which is still not set in stone," Ballard said.

The mayor said Tuesday that no one would be prevented from expressing their views as the torch travels through the city, but organizers of large rallies needed to acquire permits to gather near, but not alongside, the torch.

"We don't want to give you the permit right on the same stage that the advocates for the torch are going to participate," he said. "We must do it within sight and sound of that stage, and we want to accommodate that."



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TEMECULA

Closure of two casino nightclubs blamed on alcohol

The popular Eagle's Nest and Silk nightclubs in the Pechanga Resort & Casino have been shut down by the tribe because of alcohol-related problems.

Pechanga spokeswoman Amy Minniear says "tribal leaders have determined that an unacceptable number of incidents involving alcohol consumption" have occurred at the Temecula complex.

Details about the offensive incidents haven't been disclosed. The tribe also hasn't said what will be done with those nightclubs, saying only on its Web site that, "We are working on improving the overall Pechanga experience."

The Silk nightclub attracted up to 3,000 guests each night.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Prosecutors are now union members

Prosecutors in Los Angeles County are now union members.

The 700-member Association of Deputy District Attorneys, which had been representing prosecutors informally, is now recognized as a collective-bargaining unit. The county's Employee Relations Commission authorized the union Monday.

Association president Steve Epson says his first priority will be getting a pay hike for the union's membership.

County prosecutors start at $56,000 a year, which compares to $91,000 starting pay in San Francisco County and $76,000 in Contra Costa County.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Judge tosses LAPD lieutenant's false rumor case

A Los Angeles judge has tossed a police lieutenant's lawsuit claiming a false rumor that she's a "psycho" who threatened suicide 18 years ago prevented the LAPD from promoting her to captain.

Superior Court Judge Aurelio Munoz dismissed the case on a technicality, saying declarations submitted by Lt. Corina Smith's lawyer Joseph Avrahamy in opposition to the city's dismissal motion did not state where they were signed.

The attorney says he's stunned by the judge's decision and he will ask to get the case reinstated.

The suit alleges intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress, defamation, negligence and civil rights violations.

Besides losing promotion, the Superior Court suit filed in 2006 claimed rumors about her led fellow officers to call her "psycho," caused a miscarriage and made her the target of a stalker.

Three LAPD internal investigations concluded the rumor was false.

AP

SAN DIEGO

State joins in to help with syphilis outbreak

Five state health investigators are joining in to help stem the spread of syphilis is San Diego County, where there's been a 1,100 percent rise in syphilis cases between 2000 and 2007.

California communicable disease control chief Douglas Hatch says "San Diego's increase is a cause for concern because we're just not understanding why it's being transmitted in the frequency that we're seeing."

Most of the syphilis infections in San Diego, and nationwide, involve male homosexual encounters.

San Diego County syphilis cases went from 28 in 2000 to 340 last year, much higher that the other large urban counties of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Orange and Alameda.

AP

SANTA MARIA

County will inspect boats before launching

Boats must go through vigorous inspection before being launched at Lake Cachuma as part of Santa Barbara County's effort to avoid an invasive mussel infestation.

The Board of Supervisors stopped short of an outright ban as a preventive measure against the highly invasive and destructive quagga mussel. Lake Casitas in Ventura County has banned boaters from launching vessels there.

Supervisors, meeting Tuesday in Santa Maria, unanimously approved a series of boat inspection measures, including a quarantine period, designed to prevent introduction of the fresh water mollusks into the lake. The new rules take effect Friday.

AP

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE

Hilltop monument to Reagan being dedicated

The Ronald W. Reagan Missile Defense Site will be formally dedicated on a hilltop at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Thursday's ceremony marks the 25th anniversary of Reagan's historic speech on the development of a system to protect the United State from missile attacks.

Officials announced the Vandenberg missile defense facilities would be named after the late president during a ceremony last April attended former first lady Nancy Reagan.

The Reagan memorial overlooks the northern part of Vandenberg. A bust of the former president is on a pedestal at the viewing site.

AP

SAN DIEGO

Merriman's prized Mercedes stolen

Someone stole, then torched, a $180,000 Mercedes-Benz owned by San Diego Chargers linebacker Shawne Merriman.

San Diego police spokesman Gary Hassen says officers found the 2006 Mercedes, which was perched on milk crates with its wheels missing, ablaze in the Emerald Hills neighborhood last week. The 23-year-old Merriman, who lives in the Scripps Ranch area, hadn't reported the car stolen. No one has been arrested.

AP

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Photos by Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

(Far left) Santa Monica Fire Department Engineer Adrian Crook washes Engine 122 at Station #2. Crook is very proud to serve the city he grew up in. (Top left) Firefighter Brendt Noon makes his bed during the early morning hours last week. Noon has served the department for 10 years. (Middle left) Fire Captain Steven Davis sits at his computer checking his many e-mails. (Bottom left and above) The station's equipment is stocked with the various tools needed to fight today's fires.

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Victim was found at home

FROM **AUTOPSY** PAGE 1

want to reveal the autopsy until they do more investigation."

Redding's body was found after officers received a call from the victim's mother who had been trying to contact her daughter by phone. Police said they were unsure how long Redding, who took several courses at Santa Monica College, had been dead by the time she as discovered.

Investigators do not believe the two homicides, both of which involved victims who lived by themselves, are related. No suspects have been identified in either cases.

There were no signs of forced entry in Merman's unit, which is located on the second floor of the three-story complex. Padilla said detectives have not been able to determine if anything is missing from the condo, citing the difficulty of figuring out what he owned because he lived alone.0

Merman was born in Moscow, Russian on Oct. 24, 1972, moving to Los Angeles with his mother in 1985, according to his Web site, sashas-illusions.com. The site, which includes biographical information, mentions that Merman enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1992 and received a bachelor's degree in 1998 from Otis College of Art & Design.

news@smdp.com

Wrestling program caters to middle school students

FROM **WRESTLING** PAGE 3

provide meaningful experiences in athletic competitions.

The partial grant will pay for two wrestling mats and equipment including shoes, headgear, knee pads, scales, time clocks, score keeping equipment, first aide kits and cleaning supplies. Fees paid by participating families (scholarships bases on need are available) will pay for shirts, shorts, insurance and coaching. Additional funds will be raised by the club through local fundraising efforts.

The program costs $150 per participant. For any additional information regarding the program, e-mail Forster at forsterpt@aol.com or call (310) 656-8600.

"When I was in sixth grade back in New York, I had a great gym teacher who changed my life by introducing me to the sport," said Forster, who wants other kids, both boys and girls, to have similar experiences through wrestling. "It gave me the self confidence and the strength to handle so many things in my life."

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Council criticizes airport proposal

FROM **AIRPORT** PAGE 1

proposal to install an Emergency Material Arresting System (EMAS) on the west end of the airport, which would consist of a series of concrete blocks that give way under the weight of an aircraft, slowing it down in case it overshoots the runway. Councilmembers argued the security system, which could handle a plane traveling at 70 knots, doesn't go far enough and questioned why the measure wasn't proposed for the east end of the runway as well.

"Safety is number one," Mayor Herb Katz said during the meeting. "I don't think the FAA (is) addressing it, I think you're dodging it."

Shaffer estimated that between 4,000 and 8,000 operations would be affected if an EMAS bed was placed at the departure end of Runway 3. Citing an FAA modeling system, Shaffer added that under a worst case scenario in which all 8,000 operations on the east end involved jets, the risk of a runway overshoot would be one in 625 years.

"You've eliminated 8,000 operations a year from the airport against the risk of one overrun in 625 years," Shaffer said. "That's the probability. That's the scientific fact."

Several members in the pro-jet ban audience sighed in exasperation at the remarks, many holding yellow fliers that read "Ban the 'C' and 'D' Airplanes!"

Those sighs quickly grew to angry gasps, many residents shaking their heads when Shaffer raised the possibility of adopting a Runway Protection Zone, a voluntary program in which homeowners sell their properties to make room for a larger buffer zone. The FAA officials suggested enacting the program through a pilot phase and expanding it to several blocks if successful.

"You design the program, you pick the appraisers, you pick the relocation specialist, you set up the guidelines within the parameters of regulation to help people identify comparable housing within the community," Shaffer said, illustrating on a map just how many residences would be affected.

"That's two whole neighborhoods!" one woman sitting in the audience remarked out loud.

City officials rebuffed the suggestion.

"It seems to me ... you have an emphasis on utility and you heard from us that we really value people living here in their homes," Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom said.

The 70-knot EMAS would be designed to stop roughly 97 percent of operations at the airport and 90 percent of C and D classified jets. The enhanced safety measure would consume more runway than the 40-knot EMAS, which the FAA previously proposed and city officials turned down as being insufficient.

Along with the enhanced EMAS bed, the FAA also offered to reduce noise and pollution by changing the alignment of aircraft on Runway 21 where the majority of operations take place, adjusting the line of planes so that emissions travel down the taxiway. The FAA is also offering adding information about the noise abatement procedures and lack of runway safety areas through electronic notifications sent to pilots who file their flight plans into or out of Santa Monica.

"We worked very hard and a very long time to come to an agreement with the city and presented them with two excellent options that would (ensure) safety and maintain access to the airport for virtually all current users," Gregor said on Wednesday.

The meeting drew a large audience of residents living in Mar Vista and Sunset Park, all of whom spoke in support of the ordinance.

Several residents listed incidents of runway overshoots across the country, enunciating the ones that have resulted in fatalities.

"These are people's lives we're dealing with," Susan Hartley, the vice chairman of the Airport Commission, said.

Margaret Williamson said she owns one of the homes that would fall within the Runway Protection Zone. Estimating that each of the homes are valued at roughly $1 million a piece, Williamson questioned whether the airport generated enough activity to warrant such an expenditure by the FAA. Williamson, her voice shaking, said the FAA could have her house, adding that the airport has the 47-year resident worried about her family's health.

"If you think property acquisition is a recommendation, then you're admitting there's a real danger," she said.

Shaffer stated repeatedly throughout the meeting that the airport is safe, pointing to data showing that fatal accidents have declined while operations have increased.

"Santa Monica Airport is a safe airport and it continues to get safer," Shaffer said.

Councilmember Bobby Shriver suggested that city staff should study the cost and construction time of installing the EMAS bed system, noting that the litigation would be timely and there would be no safety measures in the meantime.

NO POLLUTION

Two ongoing airport issues that the council chose to avoid during the discussion were pollution and noise, intending instead to focus on safety.

Among the local residents who attended the meeting was L.A. Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, who both represents and lives in Mar Vista and has criticized the FAA about the effects of jet aircraft on his constituents.

"This is one of the tightest airports in America and it's had a substantial increase in jets the last 10 years," Rosendahl said.

Rosendahl met with Congresswoman Jane Harman, Shaffer and several of his constituents shortly before the meeting on Tuesday night.

"I strongly disagree that air and noise pollution issues are secondary," Harman, who represents the Westside, said in a statement. "My constituents who live directly east of the airport suffer intensely from pollution at SMO. I'm working together with them and the FAA on a solution."

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Rocket power

FROM **ROCKET** PAGE 3

Xcor has been in talks with companies that may operate Lynx spacecraft for space tourism, Greason said without naming them.

"We don't usually discuss a lot of the details of our projects until the hardware rolls out and that's not so much because of some deep-seated desire to be secret as it is that we don't want to tie the hands of our engineers by saying too much too soon," Greason said.

But he said the decision to talk about the Lynx was primarily due to the involvement of the Air Force, which under a contract has been receiving reports on the progress of Xcor's design work for the past year and recently notified the company it will continue that under a phase-2 contract.

"That will allow them to share in our lessons learned during the program and also to use our vehicle as a test bed for some technologies that they are interested in. Since that program will inevitably make certain elements of the vehicle public over time, we thought it made a lot more since to get it all together and lay the story out in a coherent way," Greason said.

Coming two months after British billionaire Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic unveiled a model of SpaceShipTwo, a six-passenger vehicle that may begin flight tests this year, the Xcor announcement suggested that real competition is nearing in the infant industry of space tourism.

Greason said that since various companies are offering different vehicles that will provide different experiences, "we thought it was time to let the potential travelers know what the options were out there so they can start thinking about what their plans need to be."

Greason wouldn't discuss what Lynx operators might charge for a ride, but he said Xcor's price to operators should allow them to charge passengers half what others charge. The ability to launch four times a day will make up for the fact that the Lynx will only carry one passenger at a time, he said.

Lynx will have a pressurized cabin but the pilot and passenger will wear helmets and pressure suits for safety. Passengers will need some kind of medical clearance and perhaps a day's training in such things as operating the suits and evacuating the rocket. The Lynx will have an escape capability, but no ejection seats.

While SpaceShipTwo will be flown by a crew of two with passengers in seats behind them, Xcor chief test pilot Rick Searfoss, a former space shuttle commander, emphasized that the passenger on each Lynx flight will ride "in the co-pilot position essentially, with an incredible view the whole time."

A Lynx flight will begin with all four rockets firing to send the craft down the runway, said Searfoss, 51. The Lynx will tilt up in near-vertical flight, with increasing acceleration.

"Toward the end you're feeling close to four Gs of acceleration pushing you back against the seat," he said.



SIDEWAYS

Glenn Roland *news@smdp.com*

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MLS

Beckham settles in for year two

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

The confetti cannons have been put away. The plumes of smoke have dissipated. David Beckham is about to begin his second Major League Soccer season with a lot less hoopla.

Now it's time to see how good Beckham and the Los Angeles Galaxy can be.

They surely didn't find out last season, when Beckham arrived amid massive hype in mid-July. He was already hobbled by a bum ankle, then injured his knee and played in just five MLS games. He had no goals and two assists.

"It was difficult last season because I came halfway through and wasn't fit," he said. "Touch wood, the ankle's good, the knee's good. I'm definitely prepared physically and mentally, and definitely ready for the upcoming season."

MLS opens its 13th season Saturday, with a new expansion team in San Jose and more international players, especially from Argentina, Colombia and Brazil. Eight of the league's 14 teams will make the playoffs, which culminate with the MLS Cup in Los Angeles on Nov. 23.

In 2009, Seattle will join the league with "The Price is Right" host Drew Carey as a co-owner and Philadelphia will start in 2010.

Beckham was to make his 100th international appearance for England in Wednesday's exhibition game against France in Paris. Then the 32-year-old midfielder is to rejoin the Galaxy in time for its opener Saturday at Colorado.

"There's nobody who sees a long ball better than him," Galaxy midfielder Peter Vagenas said. "He's definitely someone who can open up games with one pass, which is pretty amazing."

Beckham was healthy throughout the preseason, appearing in all six of the Galaxy's exhibition games, with a goal and three assists.

That's good news for MLS fans in Dallas, Toronto, New England, Colorado, Salt Lake City and Kansas City who didn't get to see the English superstar last season because injuries kept him from their cities.

In 2007, the league backloaded the Galaxy's schedule with road games to show off Beckham to America. The extensive travel took a toll on the players and injuries piled up. The Galaxy's 9-14-7 record was third worst in the league.

"When David came here, he didn't know what to expect with the league, his team, his teammates, the fields, the travel," Vagenas said.

"Now that he's gotten it under his belt, you're going to see the real athlete come through. Last year, it was tough because he came in late and there were a lot of adjustments. This year, hopefully, he hits the floor running."

The most grueling travel is over. The Galaxy and Beckham played exhibition games in Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and three Asian cities in an effort to stamp itself as MLS' highest-profile team.

"We spent a lot of time together," he said. "There seems to be a lot more togetherness in the squad this year. We're all getting a lot more confident now."

Beckham is joined by another European star on the Galaxy. Ruud Gullit took over as coach from Frank Yallop, who returned to San Jose for a second stint in charge. Gullit was a star striker on the Dutch team that won the 1988 European championship.

The Galaxy's lone preseason match against an MLS opponent ended in a 0-0 tie at FC Dallas.

"We're slowly coming together," Gullit said. "The season will be a (work in) progress. We're improving in all areas of the field, but we're still trying to find our right shape."

Gullit expects the veterans — Beckham, Landon Donovan and Carlos Ruiz (acquired from Dallas) — to tutor the youngsters.

"This is one of the first clubs I've been with where I am sort of more of a mentor," Beckham said. "When we've got 19-, 20-year-old kids coming into MLS for the first time and they need questions answered, it's nice to be able to answer them. You want the eagerness, you want the ability that they have to want to learn. They'll get better along the way."

Until that happens, the Big Three will need to carry a team with a young defense and new starting goalkeeper Steve Cronin. But they never played together in six preseason games because Donovan had knee tendinitis and Ruiz was bothered by a strained hamstring. He had a career-low seven goals last year.

"It would definitely hurt (if one of us goes down)," Donovan said. "In MLS you don't have 15 great world-class players. Each team usually has a few. You hope more often than not we're all on the field, for sure."

Beckham, Chicago's Cuauhtemoc Blanco and New York's Juan Pablo Angel arrived last season as a result of the designated player rule — which allows teams to acquire a player outside the approximate $2.2 million salary cap — and MLS continues taking steps to improve its overall level of play.

"In 2007, the standard of play in the league took a huge leap forward," deputy commissioner Ivan Gazidis said. "It wasn't about David Beckham, although David clearly was a huge story for us and has been a terrific ambassador for our league. It was about the players that accompanied him."

Skilled South Americans are the hottest acquisitions this season, with Eastern Conference power D.C. United landing five players, including designated player Marcelo Gallardo of Argentina, Peruvian goalkeeper Jose Carvallo and Colombian defender Gonzalo Martinez.

Kansas City added Claudio Lopez, who played in two World Cups for Argentina, to fill the gap created when Eddie Johnson left for Fulham of the English Premier League.

Each MLS team was granted one more roster spot to acquire another foreign player this season.

Gazidis said MLS surveys show fans want more international players.

"When we make a statement like signing David Beckham, that sends a message that reverberates around the world: There's no player that's out of reach," he said.

"As we go through expansion, it's also a priority that we make the level of play better every year and there's no other way to do that than to dip into the international pool."

Blanco, the Mexican standout, helped turn around Chicago's season after he arrived last July. Angel's 19 goals for the New York Red Bulls were second best in the league.

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SURF REPORT



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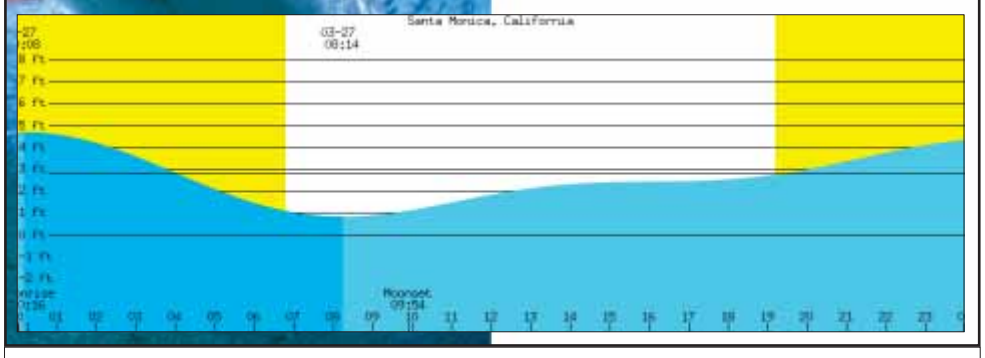
SWELL FORECAST (4-6 FT)

Today the wind swell should continue. Most of this though is expected in the SD area where wind swell peaks could reach head high+. Elsewhere, west facing breaks are looking at chest high+ wind swell peaks with some pluses at times. Southern hemi energy should keep south facing breaks in chest high surf, and the NW wrap may help things out there further.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SW AND NW WEDNESDAY

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **March 18, 2008**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / 19
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 24

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from Ford

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	B	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	C	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	D
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	A
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	B	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	B	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	D
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	F

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	D
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	D	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	D
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	B
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	D
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A	D
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	C	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	C	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	B

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

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Heal the Bay

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The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

UCLA squeaking by during streak

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES UCLA seems to know only two ways to win these days — blowouts or squeakers. Five of the top-seeded Bruins' last eight wins have been by three points or less, another came after they forced overtime and two were double-digit routs.

They might want to find another way, with tougher teams looming on their path to a third consecutive Final Four.

Winners of 12 straight, the Bruins (33-3) play 12th-seeded Western Kentucky (29-6) Thursday night in the NCAA tournament regional semifinals in Phoenix.

"We are skating on thin ice, but we're winning these games," point guard Darren Collison said Tuesday. "We don't want to continue to have these bad starts, we want to strive for having good starts."

After trailing most of the way, UCLA survived a tight second-round game for the third consecutive year, edging Texas A&M 51-49 Saturday when Josh Shipp blocked Donald Sloan's shot in the lane in the closing seconds.

A newspaper photo the next day showed Shipp's left hand on Sloan's right wrist, but no foul was called.

"Doesn't matter now, the game's over, we're moving on," a smiling Shipp said.

Initially, freshman Kevin Love was given credit for the block. He thought Shipp made a clean block, then he saw the photo.

"I saw the hand on the wrist and that's tough to say, but hey, it was the ref's call and luckily the NCAA can't look back on that," he said, referring to UCLA's last basket that was taken away the next day, which changed the final score.

Another call that went the Bruins' way came when they clinched the Pac-10 regular-season title over Stanford. They forced overtime when Lawrence Hill was called for a foul while blocking a last-second shot by Collison.

Love sensed something special was going on when Russell Westbrook stepped to the foul line in that game.

"Russell's free throw hit the back of the rim, bounced up in the air, bobbled a couple of times and I was like, `Russ, this is destiny here, you're going to knock this next one down and we're going to win the game,"' he recalled. "Hey, that ended up happening, and that was kind of a surreal moment for me."

Recent Internet and television chatter says a spate of calls have unfairly gone UCLA's way.

"They keep saying it's a conspiracy and everybody hates UCLA now, but we're not feeding into that too much," Love said. "We still came back, we still had to hit our shots, even if it had been a foul, they still would have had to hit the free throws."

Shipp doesn't see the Bruins benefiting from any special karma.

"Everything we got, we've earned," he said. "Those last-second shots, we've earned those. The calls, they're close. People miss calls; our calls get magnified at the end."

Shipp is under the microscope for more than his game-saving block. He was scoreless in 37 minutes against the Aggies, continuing a slump that included an 0-for-20 stretch from 3-point range earlier this month. The junior forward averages 12.8 points.

"He knows what he needs to do and I don't think he should feel any extra pressure," Love said. "He's been here twice, so he knows what he's doing."

The Bruins got a combined 40 points from Collison and Love, while Shipp, Westbrook and Luc Richard Mbah a Moute totaled seven points among them. The trio was scoreless in the first half.

"We do a lot of ball screens and we're watching for most of the game. Sometimes it is hard to just shoot the ball when it gets kicked out to us," Shipp said. "We're more transition players anyway, so we need to get the transition game going and then maybe we'll be able to get those easy baskets and get more in the flow of the game."

Mbah a Moute returned against A&M after missing two games because of a sprained left ankle. Coach Ben Howland said the junior forward's ankle swelled so much Sunday that it resembled "elephantitis."

However, a precautionary MRI done Monday was negative and Howland expects Mbah a Moute to start Thursday. The coach has said the Bruins can't win without him.

"Luc is that one piece that every team needs," Collison said. "When he gets healthy, it's going to open us up even more. Teams aren't going to focus so much on Josh coming off screens or Kevin or Russell or myself driving, they're gong to have to respect Luc. When Luc gets healthy and starts knocking down those shots, which we know he can, it's going to be a different story for us."

What kind of ending the Bruins create for themselves remains to be seen. But Love knows what the expectations are at a school with 11 national championships and 96 NCAA tournament victories, second only to Kentucky's 100.

"In order for it to be historic and in the same breath as Coach (John) Wooden, we'd have to make something very special happen and that would be a Final Four run and hopefully a national championship," he said. "In Pauley Pavilion, you don't see Final Four banners. The only thing they hang in there are national championship banners."

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Married Life (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:40, 10:006:00, 7:40, 8:15, 10:00
No Country for Old Men (R) 2hrs 02min
4:30, 9:45
The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13)
2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

La Traviata at La Scala (NR) 2hrs 20min
2:00, 5:00, 8:00
10,000 B.C. (PG-13) 1hr 49min
11:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:10, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30
Be Kind Rewind (PG-13) 1hr 41min
2:30, 7:50
Definitely, Maybe (PG-13) 1hr 52min
12:00, 5:00, 10:20
Never Back Down (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:15 a.m., 1:50, 4:20, 7:30, 10:10
Vantage Point (PG-13) 1hr 30min
11:50 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:50

More information email news@smdp.com

Have some fun, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Do whatever's necessary to maintain an overview. If you are not careful, you could be overwhelmed by a misunderstanding or an explosive realization. Tonight: Relax to great music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Surprises sometimes don't feel good. Remember, it is your perception that defines good or bad. Listen to someone who tosses a totally different perspective in your lap. Tonight: Concentrate on one person, and only one person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You will want to take charge, but somehow obstacles appear. Use them well and do something that you have been putting off that makes you happy. Tonight: Murphy's law rules.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ How you see something and the way you approach it might make sense to you, but not to someone else. If you feel overwhelmed with questions, back off, but understand the cost of this decision. Tonight: Talk a problem through rather than ignore it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Allow your creative juices to flow, especially if you hit a strange problem. The unexpected runs rampant when you are dealing with a partner, jointly held funds and risk-taking. Tonight: Add more lightness to your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Basics count in a crisis. Listen to feedback. Wondering which way to go is appropriate, as there are two different alternatives. Trust in your ability to discern the difference. Work with a creative individual to get results. Tonight: Fun and games.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Talk allows new changes. Recognize that you have everything in line. Simply don't worry, and trust much more. Surprises come in from out of left field. Tonight: Call it an early day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Examine what is going on and try to discover what needs to happen. If you are in touch with your feelings, you are likely to make the right choice when a surprise pops up. Eye romance and risk-taking carefully. Tonight: Hold on to your wallet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your big smile moves mountains. Deal with issues spontaneously. You come from a self or core that you might not always be in sync with. Tonight: Indulge. Relax.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ If your sixth sense is pulling at you, use the opportunity to stop the whirlwind that surrounds you that you call life. Pulling back and taking time to assess different situations is important. Tonight: Off on your own.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You are full of life and energy, especially when with friends or a group of people. Your personality blooms to an unprecedented amount. Your instincts come forward. Listen and consider your options. Tonight: Where people are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You might want to loosen up and not feel as threatened by a supervisor or authority figure. Stop and recognize what you have to offer. Try to record what seems like a series of wild thoughts. Creativity flows through. Tonight: A must appearance.

Happy Birthday

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

You work to understand the different people, trends and issues in your life this year. As a result, you might like to see the big picture. Pull back and detach often. Develop effective relaxation techniques. For some it might be surfing the Net, and for others listening to music. Use whatever means you need to get a total perspective. If you are single, you will meet people through your work and other community commitments. You have time on your side, as formalizing a bond might not be the best idea this year. If you are attached, you'll grow together if you both commit to a goal or project. SAGITTARIUS always presents a different view.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com (c) 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc.







Janric Classic Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
BRONZE

6	3			2	9	1		
5		2	7					9
	1					4		6
	6				1	7		
	2		5	4	8		6	
		3	6				4	
1		4	9	6			7	
2					4	3		5
		9					1	4

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GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

6	1	9	2	3	8	5	4	7
5	8	7	4	1	9	2	3	6
3	4	2	5	7	6	1	8	9
9	5	6	7	8	1	3	2	4
1	3	8	6	4	2	7	9	5
2	7	4	3	9	5	6	1	8
7	2	1	8	6	4	9	5	3
8	6	5	9	2	3	4	7	1
4	9	3	1	5	7	8	6	2

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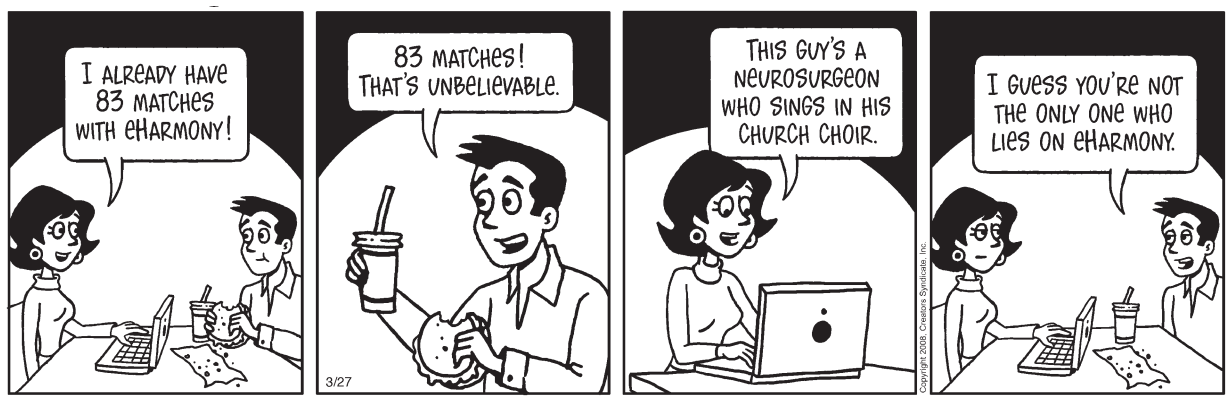
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



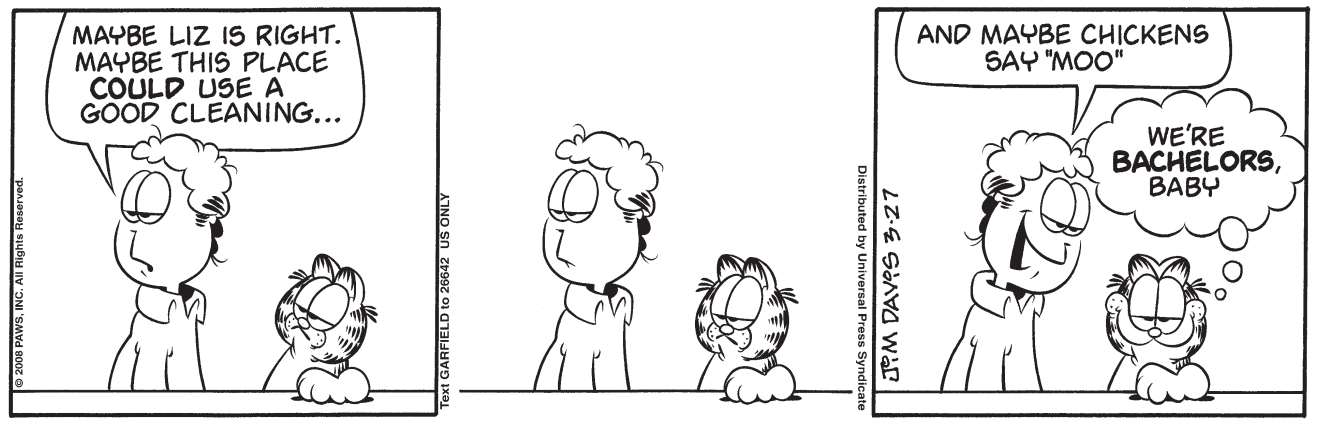
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



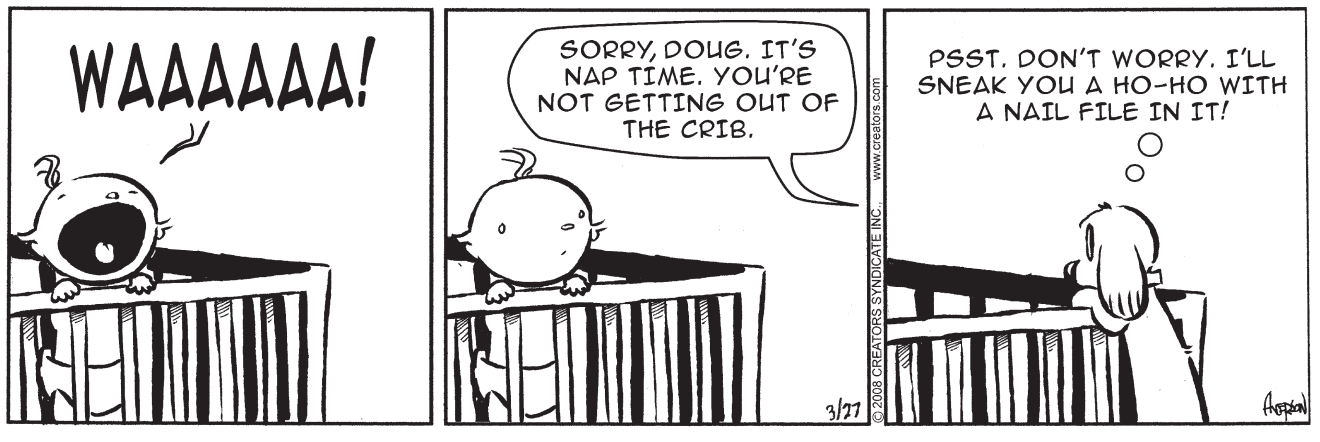
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

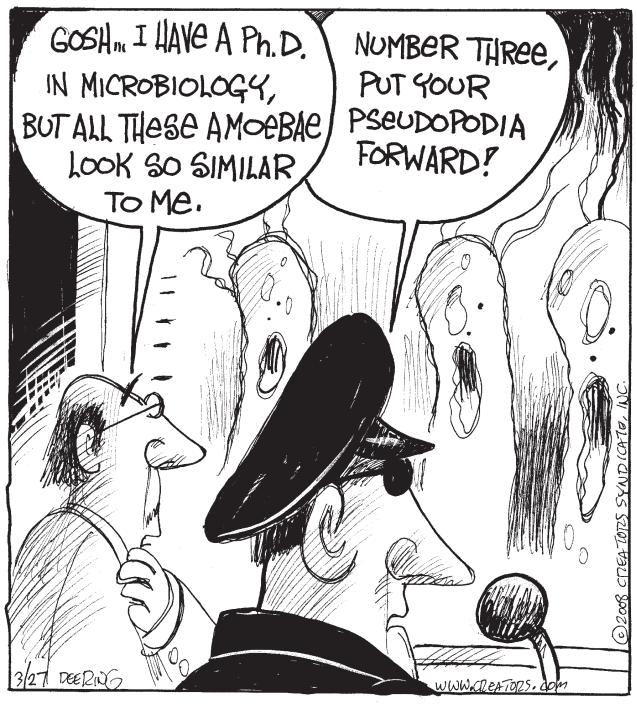


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Debate group
5 "Le Foyer de la Danse" painter
10 "Cat on — Tin Roof"
11 Fleet
12 Queue
13 Whodunit item
14 Apollo event
16 Short stroke
20 Swirled
23 Impress
24 Give up
25 Cut off
27 Building wing
28 Noises
29 Hockey ploy
32 Actor's pic
36 Not square
39 Corn Belt state
40 Bandaged spots
41 Court act
42 Theater boxes
43 Gaelic

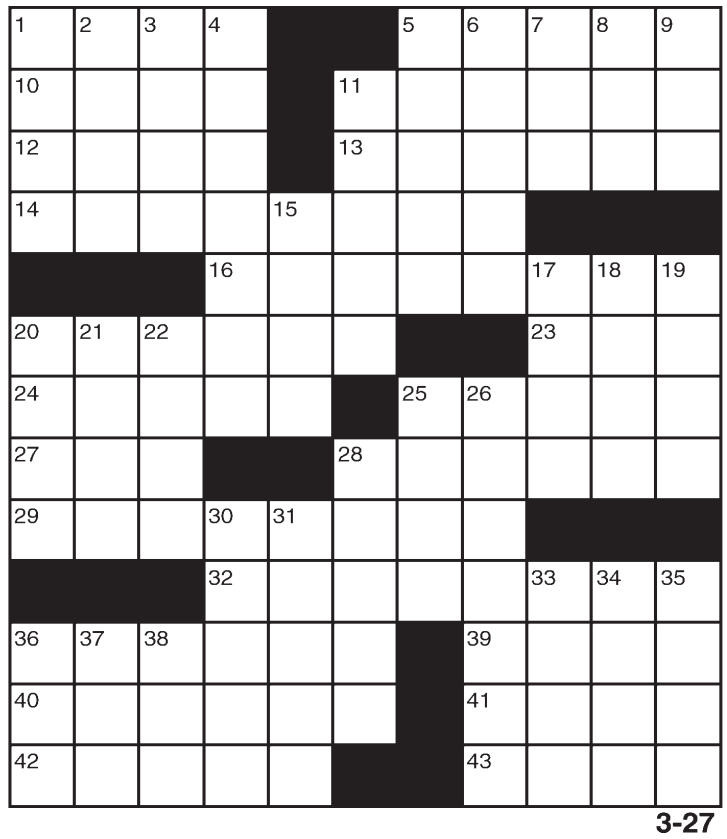
DOWN

1 Soothe
2 Columbus' home
3 It's taboo
4 Lettering aid
5 Sag
6 Radiates
7 Ozone, for one
8 Hubbub
9 — Mateo
11 Garden pest
15 Lose
17 "Private Benjamin" star
18 Was in debt
19 Kennedy and Koppel
20 Beholds
21 Kitchen herb
22 Crème — crème
25 State of mind
26 Alfresco
28 Chases baseballs
30 Caller's need
31 Posts
33 Clock unit
34 Possesses
35 Confiscate
36 Hedwig, for one
37 Halloween cry
38 Galoot

S	O	R	T				T	O	N	E
I	D	E	A	L		M	A	T	E	R
T	E	R	R	A		A	L	T	A	R
U	S	E		D	A	Y	C	A	R	E
P	S	A	N	D	Q	S		W	E	D
	A	D	I	E	U		C	A	D	
			C	R	A	T	E			
	B	E	E		T	I	N	E	S	
T	A	X		V	I	N	T	N	E	R
O	N	T	R	A	C	K		R	A	E
P	A	R	E	S		E	L	I	T	E
I	N	A	N	E		R	A	C	E	D
C	A	S	T				B	O	D	Y

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



3-27

DAILY LOTTERY

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SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 9 10 28 35
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: $21M

Fantasy 5: 14 24 31 35 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 2 4
EVENING: 3 2 1

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1.41.61

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A 25-year-old woman was arrested for assault in Bremerton, Wash., in December after fighting with her boyfriend in the shower over whether the man's dog could join them. The woman objected and said the arrangement would be a deal-breaker for their relationship, to which the boyfriend replied that he hoped his next girlfriend would appreciate the dog more. At that, according to police, she punched him several times in the face, and in their struggle, he dislocated his shoulder.

■ Female Muslim medical students at several hospitals in Britain are objecting to a campaign that demands more rigorous hand-washing (to stop the spread of dangerous bacteria), complaining that being forced to bare their forearms above the wrist is immodesty prohibited by their religion. Doctors cited in a February Daily Telegraph story said washing up to the elbow is crucial for safety. Some women at Birmingham University said they would change careers rather than comply.

■ In January, the state medical board in Sydney, Australia, admonished psychiatrist Yolande Lucire for testifying in a court case about her belief that Ritalin and similar drugs had produced residual organic hallucinosis in children that might explain their violence later in life. The board said it disagreed with her and ordered Lucire to make an appointment with a senior psychiatrist for therapy, to help her deal with her problem of making unconventional diagnoses.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1977 583 people were killed when a KLM Boeing 747, attempting to take off, crashed into a Pan Am 747 on the Canary Island of Tenerife.

1513 Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon sighted present-day Florida.

1625 Charles I acceded to the English throne upon the death of James I.

1794 Congress approved ``An Act to provide a Naval Armament'' of six armed ships.

1836 the first Mormon temple was dedicated, in Kirtland, Ohio.

1945 during World War II, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower told reporters in Paris that German defenses on the Western Front had been broken.

1958 Nikita Khrushchev became Soviet premier in addition to First Secretary of the Communist Party.

WORD UP!

misnomer \mis-NO-muhr\, *noun*: The misnaming of a person in a legal instrument, as in a complaint or indictment.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)
Date of Filing Application: Feb. 5, 2008
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are:
N & K ENTERPRISES, INC
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 11407 SANTA MONICA BLVD. , LOS ANGELES, CA. 90025
Type of License(s) Applied for: 41 – ON-SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE.
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEWOOD.
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 3/27/2008

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Letter from Seller:

"Hi Kate, I do want to thank you for all that you have done to sell my house, all the advice and patient explanations of real estate details to a distant novice who loved her home and was reluctant to leave it in someone else's hands. My Daughter, my Financial Advisor and my CPA also think highly of you. I would certainly recommend you to anyone in Santa Monica who is thinking of selling their house in these troubled times."

- Louise

Open Sunday, March 30th
2:00 - 5:00 pm



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Open Sunday, March 30th
2:00 - 5:00 pm



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Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Late March 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 2,312,625	$ 1,300,000
North of Montana	=	$ 3,732,261	$ 2,044,714
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 1,881,900	$ 1,000,510
South of Wilshire	=	$ 873,966	$ 768,653
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,416,583	$ 720,231
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,778,900	$ 1,126,256

Statistics updated every Friday

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been obtained from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.